BRITISH COLUMBIA HYDRO AND POWER AUTHORITY

REGISTERED TRAPLINE PROGRAM

FEASIBILITY AND PRELIMINARY DESIGN STAGES

IN CO-OPERATION WITH

Province of British Columbia

Ministry of Environment

BRITISH COLUMBIA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

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REGISTERED TRAPLINE PROGRAM

BRITISH COLUMBIA HYDRO AND POWER AUTHORITY

PROPERTIES DIVISION

Feasibility and Preliminary Design Stages

IN COOPERATION WITH

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT
FISH AND WILDLIFE BRANCH

BRITISH COLUMBIA
TRAPPERS
ASSOCIATION

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
INTRODUCTION		1
1.	The Role of the Trapper	1
2.	The Role of B. C. Hydro	2
3.	The Role of the Consulting Committee	3
4.	Feasibility and Preliminary Design Studies	3
	Example - Compensation	6
5.	Impact Assessment	7
6.	Community Traplines	8
7.	Review	8

INTRODUCTION

The objectives of the program are to provide a standard compensation policy that is fair and consistent to all registered trappers. The program compensates for harvest and trapline improvement losses caused by feasibility or preliminary design studies. This includes all activities up to the date of Hydro receiving project approval from the B. C. Utilities Commission.

The program outlines measures to compensate trappers on an individual basis for losses related to trapping as a livelihood or business venture. The assessment of losses and payment for such losses will be made annually as the studies occur.

The program becomes effective once B. C. Hydro receives authorization from the Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing to proceed with the studies. Separate programs dealing with power generation projects and rights of way are also available.

1. The Role of the Trapper

The trapper is the principal participant in this program. It is the trapper's responsibility to cooperate with B. C. Hydro to ensure the program properly addresses his circumstance. It is also the trapper's responsibility to actively and honestly participate in the program.

2. The Role of B. C. Hydro

B. C. Hydro is responsible for the administration of the program. Specific duties include:

(a) Acquisition and processing of data for calculating compensation payments, including:

(i) mapping, classifying and quantifying habitats;

(ii) calculating the number of animals displaced;

(iii) assessing the impacts to trapline improvements including cabins, caches, cubbies, trails and other trapline improvements.

(b) Payment of all administrative expenses arising from the program.

(c) The administrator of the program will be responsible for conducting investigations into any wrong doings by the program participants.

3. The Role of the Consulting Committee

A Consulting Committee composed of representatives of the B. C. Trappers Association, B. C. Fish and Wildlife Branch and B. C. Hydro has been established to oversee the administration of the program. Their duties are to:

(a) Provide the structure for monitoring the policies of the program.

(b) Consider proposals for changes, initiate investigations of the proposed changes, consider appeals by the trappers, and recommend remedial action to B. C. Hydro if necessary.

(c) Annually assess the program and recommend to B. C. Hydro required alterations.

(d) Review each case to ensure the intention of these proposals have been carried out.

4. Feasibility and Preliminary Design Studies

The program is designed to compensate the trapper for feasibility and preliminary design study related disturbances. It pays for loss of potential harvest and loss of presently used cabins, cubbies, traps and trails on the trapline. To minimize such losses B. C. Hydro

will make every effort to contact the trapper concurrent with making application with the Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing. These meetings will provide the trapper with an opportunity to identify to B. C. Hydro critical areas of their traplines, including the location of cabins, traps, caches, trails or other trapline improvements and important fur producing areas. This information can then be used in planning the investigative studies to minimize conflicts.

The trapper will receive a loss of harvest payment for each year that exploration work is being carried out during the trapping season and a payment for loss of improvements caused by exploration work at any time of the year. The loss of harvest payment will be based on the loss of potential harvest from the area of impact on the trapline and the B. C. average pelt value for the last complete trapping season.

Potential harvest from area of impact by species	x	B. C. average pelt value for last complete trapping season by species	=	Compensation for species

The loss of potential harvest is determined using the densities from Table 1 for all previously trapped species that occur within the area of impact. B. C. Hydro will assess, in cooperation with the trapper, the quality of each habitat (poor, moderate and good).

The potential harvest is calculated by overlaying a density grid onto a map showing the area of habitat and the area of impact. The number of grid units (potential harvest) that overlay the habitat of that species within the area of impact is considered the potential harvest of that species lost due to exploration activities. Records of species previously trapped and the B. C. average pelt value will be obtained from the B. C. Fish and Wildlife Branch.

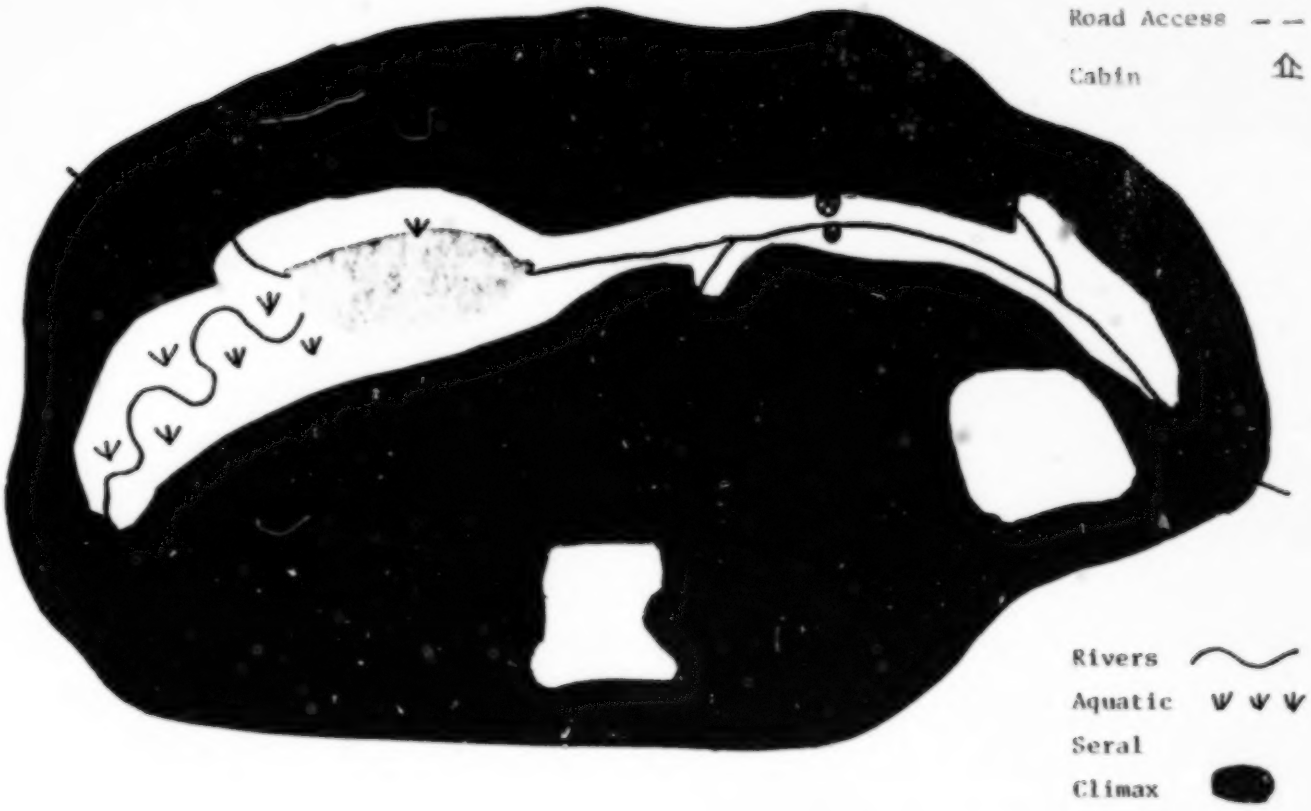
If required the trapper and B. C. Hydro will conduct an aerial and ground survey of the portion of the trapline impacted. An aircraft appropriate to the area will be supplied for up to three hours.

The trapper will receive compensation for cabins presently used in the impacted area. The rate of payment will be $12.50 per square foot ($134.50 per square metre) for each cabin displaced by the activity. Any residence registered under the Land Act (private property) that is displaced by the activity will be compensated for under the land acquisition program.

Compensation will also be paid for any damaged improvements including; trails, permanent cubbies, caches and other trapping related improvements. Improvements will be inspected by B. C. Hydro and the trapper to determine a "labour time". The "labour time", in hours will be multiplied by the current labour rate ($9.50 per hour) to determine the total value of losses to the improvements. Substantiated trap losses will be replaced by new traps of equivalent value.

EXAMPLE - COMPENSATION

Scale 1:100,000



Ig. - Marten - Habitat quality - good - 0.2/km² (Table 1) = 1 marten per 5 km²

Number of grid units (potential harvest) overlaying area of drill sites and road access = 3

Loss of potential harvest = 3 marten

B. C. average pelt value for marten = $32.00
3 x $32.00 = $96.00 (compensation for marten)

This method of calculation will be used for each previously trapped species.

A cabin will also be lost because of the clearing
10' x 8' cabin = 80 sq. ft. @ $12.50/sq. ft. = $1,000.00

5. Impact Assessment

The furbearers have been segregated based on habitat use patterns. This segregation will allow a more accurate assessment of the level of impact. At present three habitat types have been selected. The number of habitat types may in the future be increased to better specify the habitat use of each species.

Habitat	General Habitat	Species
Aquatic	Watercourses and wetland area	beaver, muskrat, mink and otter
Seral	Deciduous forests and riparian areas	weasel, fox, coyote wolf, bobcat, lynx, raccoon and skunk
Climax	Coniferous forest	squirrel, marten, fisher and wolverine

B. C. Hydro will calculate the habitat loss incurred by species in each habitat utilizing maps, aerial photos and mosaics, aerial surveys and ground truthing.

6. Community Traplines

Where a Community Trapline is affected, B. C. Hydro will pay compensation to all active trappers. Payments will be based on the program. Harvest will be determined using Table 1. The community must provide B. C. Hydro with a list of trappers eligible to receive compensation and the precentage that each is entitled to. No new trappers will be added to the original list submitted at the start of the program.

In the event of the cessation of trapping by any of the entitled trappers that percentage of compensation allocated to the trapper that ceased trapping will not be allocated to any other trapper, nor will the percentage be adjusted for the remaining trappers.

7. Review

The consulting Committee will review each case at the end of the program to ensure that the intention of these proposals has been carried out.

TABLE 1

REASONABLE HARVEST DENSITIES FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA FURBEARERS

SPECIES	HABITAT QUALITY		
	POOR	MODERATE	GOOD
AQUATIC:			
Beaver	0.5 per lodge	0.75 per lodge	1.5 per lodge
Muskrat - Interior	0.5 per pushup	0.75 per pushup	1.5 per pushup
- Coastal	0.75 per pushup	1.5 per pushup	2.0 per pushup
Mink	0.12 per km of waterway (0.2 per mile)	0.38 per km of waterway (0.6 per mile)	0.65 per km of waterway (1.0 per mile)
Otter	0.05 per km of waterway (0.08 per mile)	0.10 per km of waterway (0.16 per mile)	0.15 per km of waterway (0.24 per mile)
SERAL:			
Weasel	0.02 per km^2 (0.05 per sq. mi.)	0.08 per km^2 (0.21 per sq. mi.)	0.15 per km^2 (0.39 per sq. mi.)
Fox	0.002 per km^2 (0.005 per sq. mi.)	0.04 per km^2 (0.10 per sq. mi.)	0.06 per km^2 (0.16 per sq. mi.)
Coyote	0.009 per km^2 (0.024 per sq. mi.)	0.03 per km^2 (0.08 per sq. mi.)	0.06 per km^2 (0.15 per sq. mi.)
Wolf	0.0005 per km^2 (0.001 per sq. mi.)	0.0025 per km^2 (0.006 per sq. mi.)	0.009 per km^2 (0.024 per sq. mi.)
Bobcat	0.0025 per km^2 (0.006 per sq. mi.)	0.0075 per km^2 (0.018 per sq. mi.)	0.025 per km^2 (0.06 per sq. mi.)
Lynx - High	0.008 per km^2 (0.02 per sq. mi.)	0.02 per km^2 0.05 per sq. mi.)	0.05 per km^2 (0.13 per sq. mi.)
- Low	0.003 per km^2 (0.008 per sq. mi.)	0.009 per km^2 (0.024 per sq. mi.)	0.018 per km^2 (0.048 per sq. mi.)
Raccoon	0.03 per km^2 (0.08 per sq. mi.)	0.1 per km^2 (0.26 per sq. mi.)	0.2 per km^2 (0.5 per sq. mi.)
Skunk	0.0006 per km^2 (0.0016 per sq. mi.)	0.0015 per km^2 (0.0039 per sq. mi.)	0.003 per km^2 (0.0078 per sq. mi.)
CLIMAX:			
Red Squirrel	0.09 per km^2 (0.24 per sq. mi.)	0.75 per km^2 (1.9 per sq. mi.)	1.5 per km^2 (3.9 per sq. mi.)
Pine Marten	0.05 per km^2 (0.13 per sq. mi.)	0.1 per km^2 (0.26 per sq. mi.)	0.2 per km^2 (0.5 per sq. mi.)
Fisher	0.004 per km^2 (0.015 per sq. mi.)	0.015 per km^2 (0.04 per sq. mi.)	0.025 per km^2 (0.065 per sq. mi.)
Wolverine	0.0015 per km^2 (0.0039 per sq. mi.)	0.003 per km^2 (0.008 per sq. mi.)	0.0075 per km^2 (0.019 per sq. mi.)